Section I:
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.121 to the
CLAIMS

Claim 1 (previously presented):

A sales offering method for restricting access by traders to collected online sealed bids in an online offering and bidding system, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a computer-readable bid repository of collected bids communicative to an online offering and bidding system, said collected bids each having an associated seal status indication field for indicating whether is bid is a sealed bid or an unsealed bid;

querying said bid repository for bids which match parameters of a Broker Profile Matrix associated with a trader and which are indicated as being unsealed bids by said seal status indication field, said trader representing a intermediary third party between a bidder and an offeror;

preventing transfer of sealed bids from said bid repository to a trader responsive to said query; and

presenting via a computer user interface matching unsealed bids to a trader with whom said Broker Profile Matrix is associated.

Claim 2 (original):

The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of providing a computer-readable bid repository comprises providing a computer database in which each sealed bid and unsealed bid are represented by one or more database records.

Claim 3 (original):

The method as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said step of providing database records representing sealed bids and unsealed bids comprises providing database records which include a field indicating a bid status as sealed or unsealed.

Claim 4 (original):

The method as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said step of providing database records representing sealed bids and unsealed bids comprises providing database records which include a field indicating a bid seal expiration time.

Claim 5 (original):

The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of unsealing one or more sealed bids in said bid repository through a restricted process comprises providing a secure system administrator console and identification process which allows only an authorized system administrator to change sealed bids to unsealed bids.

Claim 6 (original):

The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of unsealing one or more sealed bids in said bid repository through a restricted process comprises:

providing a bid seal expiration time parameter with each sealed bids;
providing a system clock or timer;

comparing each bid seal expiration time parameter with a current status of a system clock or timer responsive; and

determining that bids for which bid seal expiration time parameters which are before or less than the current status of a system clock or timer are unsealed bids.

Claim 7 (previously presented):

A computer-readable medium containing program code for a sales offering computer system for restricting access by traders to collected online sealed bids in an online offering and bidding system, said program code when executed by a sales offering computer system causes the sales offering computer system to perform the steps of:

providing a computer-readable bid repository of collected bids communicative to an online offering and bidding system, said collected bids each having an associated seal status indication field for indicating whether is bid is a sealed bid or an unsealed bid;

querying said bid repository for bids which match parameters of a Broker Profile Matrix associated with a trader and which are indicated as being unsealed bids by said seal status indication field, said trader representing a intermediary third party between a bidder and an offeror;

preventing transfer of sealed bids from said bid repository to a trader responsive to said query; and

presenting via a computer user interface matching unsealed bids to a trader with whom said Broker Profile Matrix is associated.

Claim 8 (original):

The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 7 wherein said program code for providing a computer-readable bid repository comprises program code for providing a computer database in which each sealed bid and unsealed bid are represented by one or more database records.

Claim 9 (original):

The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 8 wherein said program code for providing database records representing sealed bids and unsealed bids comprises program code for providing database records which include a field indicating a bid status as sealed or unsealed.

Claim 10 (original):

> The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 8 wherein said program code for providing database records representing sealed bids and unsealed bids comprises program code for providing database records which include a field indicating a bid seal expiration time.

Claim 11 (original):

> The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 7 wherein said program code for unsealing one or more sealed bids in said bid repository through a restricted process comprises program code for providing a secure system administrator console and identification process which allows only an authorized system administrator to change sealed bids to unsealed bids.

Claim 12 (original):

> The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 7 wherein said program code for unsealing one or more sealed bids in said bid repository through a restricted process comprises program code for causing the sales offering computer system to perform the steps of:
>
>> providing a bid seal expiration time parameter with each sealed bids;
>>
>> accessing or reading a system clock or timer;
>>
>> comparing each bid seal expiration time parameter with a current status of a system clock or timer responsive; and
>>
>> determining that bids for which bid seal expiration time parameters which are before or less than the current status of a system clock or timer are unsealed bids.

Claim 13 (previously presented):

A sealed bid sales offering system in a computer network, said computer network enabling communications between said sales offering system and trader consoles, said offering system comprising:

a bid database containing collected bids, said database being accessible and queriable by said sales offering system , said collected bids each having an associated seal status indication field for indicating whether is bid is a sealed bid or an unsealed bid;

a database query server communicative to said bid database for querying said bid repository for bids which match parameters of a Broker Profile Matrix associated with a trader and which are indicated as being unsealed by said seal status indication field, said trader representing a intermediary third party between a bidder and an offeror;

a transfer preventor configured to prevent transfer of sealed bids from said bid repository to a trader responsive to said query; and

an bid communicator for presenting matching queried unsealed bids to a trader with whom said Broker Profile Matrix is associated.

Claim 14 (original):

The sealed bid sales offering system as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said sales offering system is a computer network server.

Claim 15 (original):

The sealed bid sales offering system as set forth in Claim 14 wherein said computer network server is an Internet server.

Claim 16 (original):

The sealed bid sales offering system as set forth in Claim 14 wherein said computer network server is a Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP) server.

Claim 17 (original):

The sealed bid sales offering system as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said sales offering system is adapted for communications with trader console computers which are web browser devices.

Claim 18 (original):

The system as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said database query server is adapted to retrieve unsealed bids from said bid database for presentation to a trader which meet criteria including a match with a trader's location code.

Claim 19 (original):

The system as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said database query server is adapted to retrieve unsealed bids from said bid database for presentation to a trader which meet criteria including a match with a trader's goods category code.

Claim 20 (original):

The system as set forth in Claim 13 further comprising a restricted access administrator console communicative with said bid database for allowing conversion of sealed bids to unsealed bids.

Claim 21 (original):

The system as set forth in Claim 13 further comprising a system clock or timer for use by said database query server communicative to determine which seals of sealed bids have expired as a criteria for retrieving unsealed bids.